



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 SIXTH AVENUE
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101

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REPLY TO
ATTN OF: HW-114

Colonel Steve R. Smith
Commander
Department of the Air Force
Headquarters, 92nd Combat Support Group (SAC)
Fairchild AFB, Washington 99011-5000

Dear Colonel Smith:

Chuck Findley, Director of the Hazardous Waste Division, asked me to forward to you the fact sheet on the Colbert Landfill before it is released to the public. As you can see, the dates for the meetings and public comment period have not been established yet.

If you have any questions or comments on this fact sheet or other aspects of the site, please feel free to call me at (206) 442-1283 or the EPA Project Manager, Neil Thompson at (206) 442-7177.

Sincerely,

Grechen F. Schmidt
Community Relations Coordinator

Enclosures

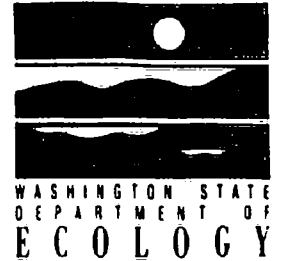
cc: Chuck Findley
Neil Thompson
Mike Blum, Ecology

USEPA SF



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COLBERT LANDFILL



DRAFT

Public Comment Period Begins on Consent Decree

Public Comment Period _____

Ecology and EPA invite you to a public meeting on _____ at _____ to explain the Consent Decree and to take your comments.

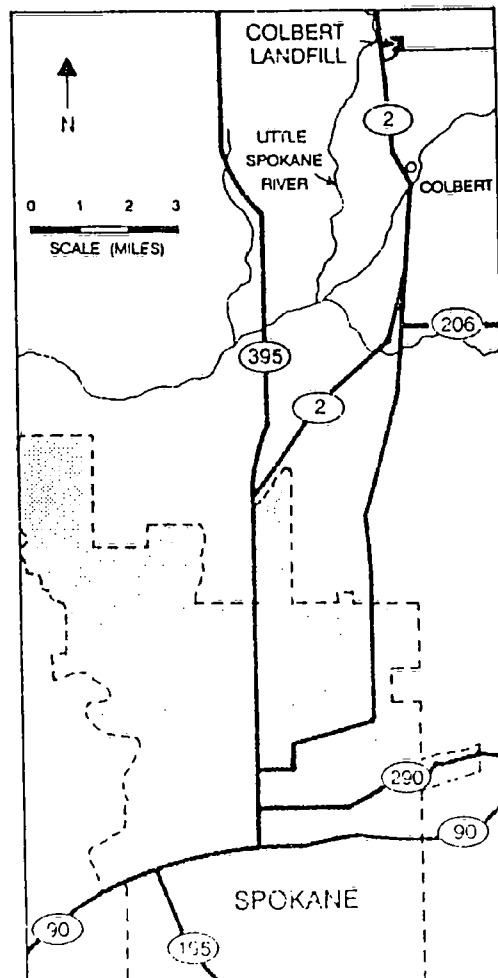
An agreement between the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Spokane County, and KeyTronic at the Colbert Landfill Superfund site has been reached.

The Consent Decree is the legal agreement which describes how the parties responsible for the contamination will carry out the cleanup of the site. Ecology and EPA are seeking public comment on the contents of the Consent Decree. The federal judge must be satisfied that the contents of the Consent Decree addresses the concerns of the public before the court makes the decree legally binding.

The Consent Decree was lodged with the Federal District Court in Spokane on _____. The Consent Decree was presented by the Department of Justice (DOJ) who represents EPA in legal matters. Ecology, Spokane County and Keytronics, along with EPA, are all parties to the Consent Decree. Fairchild Air Force base has also agreed to settle its liability at the site through separate agreements with Ecology and EPA.

Ecology and EPA will host a public meeting on _____. This meeting will give you information on the contents of the Consent Decree and provide you with an opportunity to give

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COLBERT LANDFILL CLEANUP
VICINITY MAP

FACT SHEET

Washington Department of Ecology
Hazardous Waste Investigations
and Cleanup Program
Mail Stop PV-11
Woodland Square Building
Olympia, WA 98504
(206) 438-3000

REPOSITORIES:

North Spokane Library
East 44 Hawthorn Road
Spokane, Washington

Colbert Elementary School
East 4526 Green Bluff Road
Colbert, Washington

Washington State Dept. of Ecology
Eastern Regional Office
N. 4601 Monroe Street, Suite 100
Spokane, Washington

EPA Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

For a copy of this Fact Sheet
write or call:
Mike Blum
Washington State Dept. of
Ecology
Mail Stop PV-11
Olympia, WA 98504
(206) 438-3043

Neil Thompson
EPA Region 10, HW-113
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 442-7177

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oral comments on the decree. Oral comments will be forwarded to the Department of Justice for inclusion in the package presented to the court.

Written comments should be sent to:

David Thomson
Assistant Attorney General
Land and Natural Resources Division
U.S. Department of Justice
10th and Constitution Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20530

Colbert Landfill Background

Colbert Landfill is a closed 40 acre sanitary landfill located about 15 miles north of Spokane. The landfill was operated by the Spokane County Utilities Department from 1968 until 1986. When operational, the landfill received chemical solvents for disposal from KeyTronic Corporation, Fairchild Air Force Base, and possibly others. After a Colbert resident complained of hazardous waste being disposed of at the Colbert Landfill, a preliminary investigation by state and local officials found that some of the nearby private wells were contaminated by these chemicals. In 1983 EPA placed the landfill on the National Priorities List. Sites on this list, also known as Superfund Sites, have the highest priority for cleanup nationwide.

In the spring of 1985 Ecology began in-depth investigations which characterized the nature and extent of the contamination from the landfill (a "remedial investigation" or R.I.) and evaluated various cleanup alternatives (a "feasibility study" or F.S.). More information on the results of these studies is available in Ecology's May 1987 fact sheet. Extra copies of this fact sheet are available from Ecology. The complete site record can be found at the information repositories listed on page one.

In September of 1987, based on the recommendations from these studies and the comments submitted during a public comment period, EPA and Ecology set the performance standards that the cleanup had to meet in the

Record of Decision. A specific treatment method was not chosen, but rather a type of treatment methodology known as pump and treat was selected. The pump and treat methodology includes pumping the contaminated groundwater out of the ground, treating the water to remove contaminants, and discharging the treated water into the Little Spokane River. The specific treatment process and the specific locations of the treatment system and extraction wells will be determined during the next phase of the cleanup process. EPA and Ecology have worked together to get the Consent Decree signed and share the responsibility to see that the remedy is implemented.

What will the Consent Decree do?

The Colbert Landfill cleanup will result in water quality in both the upper and lower aquifers that meet drinking water standards. In order to achieve these high standards, the cleanup process will continue until all the wells in the contaminated area meet safe concentrations of the six most important contaminants present in the ground water at the site.

How long will the cleanup take?

The design and construction of the cleanup system will take about two years, and the spread of the contamination should be stopped soon after the pump and treat process begins. However, it may require several decades of continued operation and maintenance of the cleanup equipment before the cleanup standards are met in the entire aquifer. Cleanup standards are outlined in the Scope of Work, which is a part of the consent decree.

Will my home be hooked up to a clean water supply?

An owner of a drinking water well which is verified as exceeding any one of the drinking water quality standards in two consecutive samples as defined in the scope of work must be offered a hookup to a clean water supply.

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Five residences have already been designated for an alternate water supply.

To provide an extra margin of safety, some wells that are contaminated below these water quality levels will be eligible for hookups according to the following monitoring program. Any well which is found to be contaminated in excess of 65% of the drinking water quality standards listed in the scope of work for two consecutive samples, will be sampled monthly for 1 year. If the yearly average level of contamination exceeds this same 65% cutoff, the well owner must be offered an alternate drinking water supply.

Provisions are also included in the consent decree to speed up hookups to alternate water supplies if monitoring data show continued use of the well water poses a substantial threat to public health. All private and community wells used as a drinking water supply will be routinely tested for contamination. The current well monitoring program will be continued. This program includes approximately four test per year for each well monitored.

Who will carry out the cleanup?

Spokane County will conduct the cleanup under the supervision of EPA and Ecology. KeyTronic and Fairchild Air Force Base are required only to meet the payment schedules as detailed in their respective consent decrees, unless new information indicates that they are responsible for previously undiscovered contamination. If that happens, they may be brought back into the cleanup process.

How much will the cleanup cost and who will pay for it?

The estimated \$14 million necessary to clean up Colbert Landfill will largely be paid by the responsible parties. The responsible parties agreed amongst themselves how to split up the cost of the cleanup.

KeyTronic and Fairchild Air Force Base will deposit \$4.2 and \$1.45 million, respectively, into a trust fund to be used by Spokane County for the cleanup. These two parties are not required to pay cleanup costs beyond this point unless there are new discoveries which make a more extensive and costly cleanup necessary.

In addition, Ecology and EPA will provide \$2.2 million towards the cleanup which they will then attempt to recover through legal means from the businesses also responsible for the contamination who have not agreed to assist in the cleanup. Spokane County will pay the remaining cost of the cleanup.

The \$ 7.8 million from KeyTronic, Fairchild Air Force Base, Ecology and EPA will cover the design and construction costs. The money from Spokane County will primarily be used to pay for the monitoring and long term operation and maintenance of the project. Spokane County is eligible for a grant from Ecology which could potentially reduce its costs by as much as 30 percent.

Where can I get a copy of the consent decree?

Copies of the consent decree will be available for review at the information repositories listed on the first page of this fact sheet. You can also get a copy upon request to the Department of Ecology.

What happens after the comment period?

Two months after the Federal Court approves the consent decree, Spokane County will submit a detailed schedule of the work plan to EPA and Ecology which describes the tasks it will undertake to accomplish the goals of the cleanup. The actual cleanup will begin once this work plan is approved.

The cleanup itself will occur in two main phases. The first phase is design. Design will take about a year to complete and will involve

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drilling test wells to determine how the site has changed since Ecology completed its original investigation two and a half years ago and how the contaminants in the ground water will respond to the cleanup techniques. This information will provide the exact specifications necessary to design and locate the wells and treatment facilities. Other information that will be obtained during the design phase includes effects on the ground water table, such as draw down, and effects on increased discharges to area water bodies.

The second phase is the actual construction of the cleanup system and will take about a year to complete, depending on the results of the first phase.

Questions?

Call or write: Mike Blum, Department of Ecology in Olympia, at (206) 438-3043, or toll-free at 1-800-458-0920 or Neil Thompson, Environmental Protection Agency in Seattle at (206) 442-7177.